<u>REMARKS</u>

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 7-11 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended. New claims 12-20 have been added. Claims 1-6 and 12-20 are currently pending in the application.

<u>CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 103</u>

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)as being unpatentable over Muldoon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,233,992) in view of Jasuja et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,580). Claims 7-11 have been canceled. Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the subject matter that is being claimed.

<u>Claim 1</u>

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

A system, comprising:
an inter-company collaboration system comprising:
      a first set of one or more utility servers maintained by a first company;
      a first data storage mechanism associated with the first set of utility servers, <u>the first data storage mechanism storing a set of execution data;</u>
      a first set of resources residing on the first set of utility servers, <u>wherein the first set of resources comprises an application that executes on the first set of utility servers and that operates on the set of execution data;</u>
      a secure network connection between the first set of utility servers and a second company; and
      a first access control mechanism configured to control access, by the first company and the second company, to the first set of resources and to the secure network connection, wherein access to the first set of resources is limited to specific authorized individuals that are associated with the first company and specific authorized individuals that are associated with the second company; and
an isolated system that is communicatively coupled to the collaboration system, comprising:

a second set of one or more utility servers maintained by the first company;
a second set of resources residing on the second set of utility servers, wherein the second set of resources comprises the application and a set of debugging resources;
a second data storage mechanism associated with the second set of utility servers, the second data storage mechanism including:
a first storage portion that contains data that is shared with the collaboration system, including the set of execution data; and
a second storage portion that contains data that is private to the isolated system; and
a second access control mechanism configured to control access to the second set of utility servers, wherein access to the second set of utility servers is limited to specific authorized individuals that are associated only with the first company;
wherein the application is executed on the second set of utility servers and operates on the set of execution data stored in the first storage portion of the second data storage mechanism. (Emphasis added)

The amendments to claim 1 are amply supported by the Specification (see e.g. paragraphs 0100 to 0102, 0039, etc.). The system of claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Muldoon and Jasuja, taken individually or in combination.

With regard to Muldoon, there is disclosed a method and system for sending, receiving, and managing the exchange of messages between an intranet and multiple external users using a secure server as an intermediary (see Abstract). With the system of Muldoon, only authorized users are allowed to send documents to, and receive documents from, the secure server. Thus, Muldoon ensures that the documents are kept safe from unauthorized parties.

At least several points should be noted with regard to Muldoon. First of all, it should be noted that, as far as Applicants can see, there is no mention in Muldoon of having a set of debugging resources in an isolated system. From the Office Action, it appears that the Examiner is interpreting the secure server of Muldoon to be the isolated system of claim 1. Under this interpretation, it is clear that this aspect of claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Muldoon as

Muldoon makes no mention of having debugging resources in the secure server. In fact, there is no mention of debugging at all in Muldoon.

Another point to note is that, unlike claim 1, there is no mention in Muldoon of executing the same application in both a collaboration system and an isolated system, and <u>having that application operate on the same set of execution data in both systems</u>. Since Muldoon is not concerned with debugging an application, Muldoon does not need to recreate in an isolated system the situation encountered in the collaboration system; thus, Muldoon does not need to have an application operate on the same set of execution data in different systems. Such an aspect is neither disclosed nor suggested in Muldoon. Overall, Muldoon taken individually fails to disclose or suggest at least several aspects of claim 1.

The same is true for Jasuja. The Examiner mainly relies on Jasuja to allegedly show the sharing of a storage portion. The Examiner does not assert that Jasuja teaches or suggests the aspects of claim 1 discussed above. As far as Applicants can see, Jasuja does not disclose or suggest the above-discussed aspects of claim 1. Thus, Jasuja has the same shortcomings as Muldoon.

As discussed above, both Muldoon and Jasuja fail to disclose or suggest several of the same aspects of claim 1. That being the case, even if the references were combined (assuming for the sake of argument that it would have been obvious to combine the references), the combination still would not yield the invention as claimed in claim 1. Thus, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Muldoon and Jasuja.

Applicants further submit that claims 2-6, which depend from claim 1, and which recite further advantageous aspects of the invention, are likewise patentable over Muldoon and Jasuja for at least the reasons given above in connection with claim 1.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 12-20 have been added to claim the invention with the breadth and scope to which Applicants believe they are entitled. Applicants submit that the new claims are patentable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including any art cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all of the pending claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408) 414-1080 to discuss any issues that may advance prosecution.

Applicants hereby petition for a three month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. Payment will accompany this response. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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